

Tennessee Pollution Prevention Partnership Success Story



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Hazardous Waste Generation Reduction

The Member

Lodge Manufacturing Company, a fourth generation family owned and operated business, was founded in 1896 by Joseph Lodge in South Pittsburg, Tennessee. The company currently employs 183, some of which are 3rd and 4th generation as well. As the last remaining domestic producer of cast iron cookware, Lodge has expanded its product lines to over 200 different items that serve both the home and commercial markets, both here and overseas.

The Story

Lodge made a major environmental improvement in 1991, when Henry Lodge made the decision to replace the cupola melting system with a much more environmentally friendly induction melt system. Although more expensive to run with electricity and selective scrap metal usage as compared to coke fired systems using general scrap metal, the result was a change in status from *Large Quantity Generator of Hazardous Waste* to *Small Quantity Generator*. As a result, Lodge became the proud recipient of the 1992 Governor's Award for Excellence in Hazardous Waste Reduction.

Further strides in hazardous waste reduction continued. In 1993, trials

began on replacement of the parts cleaner that generated a manifested hazardous waste. In August 1995, that parts cleaner was replaced with a non-hazardous cleaner. Also in 1993, studies were begun to replace solvent paints with water-based paints. In March 1994, a water-based paint replaced two paint lines, one of which was solvent. In June of 1997, a carburetor parts cleaner, also a hazardous waste generator, was eliminated resulting in a change from Small Quantity Generator to Conditionally Exempt.

The Success

In 1990, 78,060 kg were manifested as hazardous waste. In June 1997, 61 kg were manifested as hazardous waste. Since then, no hazardous waste has been manifested.

The Pollution Prevented

The virtual elimination of hazardous waste generation continues as the company strives to limit hazardous chemicals entering the workplace.

It Just Keeps Getting Better....